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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Toy Safety Work Group for Battery

Operated Toys

DATE OF MEETING: November 17, 1994 PLACE: 4330 East West Hwy.

Bethesda, MD

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ESME 40

DATE OF ENTRY: November 18, 1994

COMMISSION ATTENDERS: John Preston, ESME

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Jerry Rasor, Tyco Toys Jeff Lipko, Labtest USA Jerry Wise, Power Wheels

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting was to review comments regarding requirements for battery operated toys that had been submitted during a ballot of a revision of the voluntary standard for toy safety, ASTM F963.

Comments regarding marking the battery compartment for correct polarity and size of batteries had been submitted by George Papritz, Theo Sweeney, and John Preston. All three comments suggested that there be no exemption for such a marking because of "impracticality." After discussion, the work group accepted the comments for immediate consideration by the toy safety subcommittee.

A suggestion by Frank Olbrych to permit a dual action latch on a battery compartment door was discussed. Such a provision is permitted in a draft European standard. The work group rejected the suggestion as it was felt that it would significantly increase the likelihood that children could gain access to compartments containing button batteries that may be hazardous if ingested. The provisions addressing access to battery compartments (4.27.5 and 4.27.6) will continue to require the use of a coin, screwdriver or other household tool.

A suggestion by Tom Mazurek to exempt toys having non-removable batteries (i.e. a throwaway flashlight) from the battery compartment polarity and size marking requirements was accepted. Mr. Mazurek also suggested that there should be guidelines for testing labs that determine when electrical circuits are designed

Page 2

appropriately. The work group members did not believe this to be necessary and ruled the suggestion as not warranting consideration.

Three additional suggestions from Mr. Mazurek were discussed and set aside for a future revision of the toy safety standard. These were to specify a procedure for conducting a stalled motor test, a procedure for identifying short circuits, and a definition to determine when a product is "airtight."

In a further discussion of battery polarity and size markings, it was agreed that there may be battery compartments that are too small to accept the required markings. Therefore, the work group will suggest to the F15.22 subcommittee that 4.27.1 be changed to state that 'the toy shall be permanently be marked ..." rather than "the battery compartment."

The work group also believed that the instructions accompanying battery operated toys should contain a statement regarding the use of the proper battery. The work group will suggest to the subcommittee that the instructions should state: "Use only the battery recommended by the manufacturer."

To ensure that there are no other hazards associated with battery operated toys, John Preston will provide the work group with printouts of incidents reported to the CPSC over the past five years.

The work group scheduled its next meeting for January 18, 1995 at ASTM HQ in Philadelphia. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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